



# PITTSFIELD

## Berkshire County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

Nestled within the beautiful Berkshire Hills of Western Massachusetts is the City of Pittsfield, a place that residents note combines old-fashioned New England tranquility and charm with contemporary living. Incorporated in 1761, this diverse community of 50,000 people offers a rich quality of life. Here, residents and visitors enjoy the cultural offerings of nearby Tanglewood, Jacobs Pillow, Williamstown Theater Festival and other performing arts organizations and museums as well as the four-season splendor of the Berkshire Hills.

Pittsfield's industrial base has earned it the epithet, "Plastics Technology Center of the Nation". More than 40 area firms, including G.E. Plastics, work together through Berkshire Plastics Network, a consortium of independent plastics companies that includes every discipline in the production of plastics products and components. Major area employers include Berkshire Health Systems and Martin Marietta.

Pittsfield's Fourth of July Parade brings thousands of visitors to the city for the annual celebration. Hancock Shaker Village, established more than 200 years ago, gives visitors an opportunity to explore the simple beauty and peacefulness of the Shaker way of life. At Arrowhead, another Pittsfield landmark, Herman Melville completed "Moby Dick" and wrote several other pieces. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Nathaniel Hawthorne frequented the city. Today, many contemporary writers and artists call Pittsfield home.

(Narrative supplied by community)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Western Massachusetts, bordered by Lanesborough on the north; Lenox, Richmond, and Hancock on the west; Dalton on the east; and Washington on the southeast. Pittsfield is 55 miles northwest of Springfield and 136 miles west of Boston.

**Total Area:** 42.32 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 40.73 sq. miles

**Population:** 48,622

**Density:** 1,194 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Great Barrington Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.1°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Pittsfield West, Pittsfield East, Hancock

## Regional Planning Agency

Berkshire County

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Pittsfield



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 499-9321

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Mayor-Council

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1761

As a city: 1891

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	25,146		
Democrats	12,832	51.0	%
Republicans	3,268	13.0	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	9,046	36.0	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Pittsfield city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	45,793	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	45,793	100.0
Male.....	21,765	47.5	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	934	2.0
Female.....	24,028	52.5	Mexican.....	115	0.3
Under 5 years.....	2,719	5.9	Puerto Rican.....	421	0.9
5 to 9 years.....	3,027	6.6	Cuban.....	17	-
10 to 14 years.....	3,045	6.6	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	381	0.8
15 to 19 years.....	2,791	6.1	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	44,859	98.0
20 to 24 years.....	2,172	4.7	White alone.....	41,951	91.6
25 to 34 years.....	5,754	12.6	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	7,207	15.7	Total population.....	45,793	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	6,257	13.7	In households.....	44,526	97.2
55 to 59 years.....	2,342	5.1	Householder.....	19,704	43.0
60 to 64 years.....	1,941	4.2	Spouse.....	8,451	18.5
65 to 74 years.....	4,045	8.8	Child.....	12,510	27.3
75 to 84 years.....	3,262	7.1	Own child under 18 years.....	9,771	21.3
85 years and over.....	1,231	2.7	Other relatives.....	1,435	3.1
Median age (years).....	39.6	(X)	Under 18 years.....	498	1.1
18 years and over.....	35,190	76.8	Nonrelatives.....	2,426	5.3
Male.....	16,294	35.6	Unmarried partner.....	1,189	2.6
Female.....	18,896	41.3	In group quarters.....	1,267	2.8
21 years and over.....	33,787	73.8	Institutionalized population.....	910	2.0
62 years and over.....	9,675	21.1	Noninstitutionalized population.....	357	0.8
65 years and over.....	8,538	18.6	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	3,293	7.2	Total households.....	19,704	100.0
Female.....	5,245	11.5	Family households (families).....	11,822	60.0
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	5,373	27.3
One race.....	45,041	98.4	Married-couple family.....	8,451	42.9
White.....	42,395	92.6	With own children under 18 years.....	3,341	17.0
Black or African American.....	1,674	3.7	Female householder, no husband present.....	2,589	13.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	65	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	1,638	8.3
Asian.....	533	1.2	Nonfamily households.....	7,882	40.0
Asian Indian.....	233	0.5	Householder living alone.....	6,694	34.0
Chinese.....	76	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	2,818	14.3
Filipino.....	21	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	5,793	29.4
Japanese.....	33	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	5,913	30.0
Korean.....	38	0.1	Average household size.....	2.26	(X)
Vietnamese.....	66	0.1	Average family size.....	2.89	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	66	0.1	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	20	-	Total housing units.....	21,366	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	19,704	92.2
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	2	-	Vacant housing units.....	1,662	7.8
Samoa.....	5	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	13	-	occasional use.....	266	1.2
Some other race.....	354	0.8	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.5	(X)
Two or more races.....	752	1.6	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	9.0	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races: <sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	19,704	100.0
White.....	43,059	94.0	Owner-occupied housing units.....	11,979	60.8
Black or African American.....	2,105	4.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	7,725	39.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	260	0.6	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.45	(X)
Asian.....	653	1.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.97	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	38	0.1			
Some other race.....	493	1.1			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	573
Conventional Federal:	169

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	14
Federal (Section 8):	515



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Pittsfield is situated in Berkshire County, a region of hills and low mountains that widen to create the Berkshire Valley in the south. The major cities and towns are linked together by U.S. Route 7. North Adams and Pittsfield are major points of entry for rail freight into Massachusetts, and the region has several commercial airports.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 7 running N-S through the Berkshires, U.S. Route 20, and State Route 9, which runs E-W across Massachusetts.

### Rail

Conrail is the primary supplier of freight service. The Housatonic Railroad (HRR) has the capacity to serve South Pittsfield. Contact number: (617) 783-6222; for the HRR: (203) 824-0850

### Bus

Pittsfield is a member of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA), which provides fixed route service within Pittsfield and from Pittsfield to the other member towns between North Adams and Great Barrington. User side paratransit service is available for the elderly and disabled. Bonanza Bus Lines provides connections to New York City, Albany, Springfield, and Cape Cod via Providence.

### Other

Pittsfield Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located 2 mi. W of the city, has 2 asphalt runways: 3,496'x 100' and 5,000'x 100'. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. The nearest primary commercial service airports, ports and intermodal facilities are in Albany, New York (37 miles); Hartford, Connecticut (70 miles); and Boston (140 miles).



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# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Berkshire Artisans/Pittsfield Community Arts Center  
28 Renne Avenue  
(413) 499-9348

Berkshire County Historical Society  
780 Holmes Road  
(413) 442-1793

The Berkshire Museum  
39 South Street  
(413) 443-7171

Hancock Shaker Village  
Route 20, Albany Road  
(413) 443-0188

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

Berkshire Medical Center, Inc.  
Hillcrest Hospital, Inc.

### Long Term Care

Berkshire Nursing Home, Inc.  
Berkshire Place  
Mt. Greylock Extended Care Fac  
Springside Of Pittsfield Ltcf

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

Bertha M Young Rest Home

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.